

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

JUNE 23, 2003

Community surveys conducted in the United States and other countries have documented the frequent co-occurrence of substance use disorders with mental illness. Among individuals being treated for chronic or severe mental illness, such as those in the public mental health system, approximately 50% have a co-occurring substance use disorder. The abuse of alcohol and drugs by such individuals has a major detrimental impact on the course of their mental illness, leading to symptom exacerbation and relapse, noncompliance with outpatient mental health treatment, higher overall treatment costs, significantly worse social and occupational functioning, and increased risk of death from suicide. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that adolescent drug use may be a risk factor for several mental disorders, including schizophrenia.

Although co-occurring disorders are recognized as a significant public mental health problem, treatment has been sub optimal. The separate organization and financing of mental health and substance abuse services has resulted in significant differences in the attitudes and training of mental health and substance abuse treatment professionals, contributing to difficulties in providing effective treatment.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

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The Department of Mental Health plans to establish an Institute for Co-Occurring Disorders, developed in conjunction with the Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center (AFHMH) and in collaboration with the Harbor/UCLA Medical Center and the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. The Institute, which will be located on the campus of the King/Drew Medical Center will create a state-of-the-art, evidence-based model continuum of care for adolescents and adults with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders that can be replicated throughout the County. It is envisioned that the Institute will also serve as a countywide resource for research, education and training for the Departments of Mental Health, Child and Family Services, Probation, Health Services Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, the public school system and other agencies serving this population. The education, research, and treatment provided by the Institute will greatly improve the quality of care for people with co-occurring disorders in Los Angeles County. In particular, services offered by the Institute will reduce hospitalization, incarceration and homelessness, and improve the quality of life among those with co-occurring disorders, and alleviate overcrowding in County hospital emergency rooms.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:
Allocate \$375,000 in one-time only money for renovation of the AFHMH on the campus at King/Drew Medical Center to accommodate the Institute.